(b) if so, whether Government are also aware that the US National Commission on Terrorism has recommended that the Clinton administration designate Pakistan as a nation "not fully co-operating" against terrorism and impose additional sanctions against Islamabad; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir Government has seen the news item referred to in the Question.

(b) Yes, Sir. The US National Commission on Terrorism has stated in its report that "US President should impose sanctions on countries that, while not direct sponsors of terrorism, are nevertheless not co-operating fully on counter-terrorism". The Commission has suggested that Pakistan should be placed in this category. The report notes that Pakistan "provides a safe haven, transit, and moral, political and diplomatic support to several groups engaged in terrorism, including Harkat-Ul- Mujahideen, which has been designated by the United States as a Foreign Terroris Organisation (FTO)".

(c) Government has been conveying to the international community, including the United States, in all appropriate forums its information and assessment of Pakistan's sponsorship of and support to the cross-border terrorism in India. The report of the US National Commission on Terrorism is an indication of the growing international recognition of Pakistan's links with terrorism.

Development activities in North-Eastern States

*436. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an alarming level of administrative cost in eight North-Eastem States has stalled development activities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to bail out these States with special assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC C4UEVANCESOFTHEMIMSTRYOFPERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURDB): (a) and (b) It is a fact that there has

been an alarming rise in the level of administrative cost (non-plan expenditure) in the eight North-Eastern State. To minimize the effects of this on development activities in these States, the following measures have been taken by the Government:—

(i) Diversion to the extent of 20% of the Normal Central assistance (Plan) is allowed for Non-Plan purposes.

(ii) 30% of Normal Central Assistance is earmarked for Special Category States which include N.E. States.

(iii) 90% of Plan assistance in grant and 10% loan as against 30% grant and 70% loan for other States.

(iv) State contribution of 15%, which is mandatory for the Basic Minimum Services schemes, is not applicable to N.E. States.

(v) 10% of Plan provision of the Central Ministries/Departments has been earmarked for development of N.E. States.

(vi) Over and above the State Plan outlays, which have been increasing over the years, funds are also being sanctioned out of the Central Pool created through transfer of unspent balance of the earmarked outlays of the Central Ministries and Departments meant for development of the N.E. States.

(vii) The North Eastern Council is also engaged in the development of infrastructure in the Region.

(viii) Special dispensation has been made in respect of the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) by incorporating minor irrigation projects for the North-Eastern States and allowing 25% of the State's share, as against 33% for others, in availing of Central Loan Assistance.

(ix) The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended liberal grants to the North-Eastern States to cover the Non-Plan revenue gap. This recommendation has been accepted by Government of India.

Additional Calamity Relief Fund to Orissa

*437. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total allocation made to Orissa in 1999-2000 under Calamity Relief Funds;